THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) In the revised estimates for the year 1998-99, the total Central Government expenditure has been placed at Rs. 2,81,912 crore;

(b) The increase in total Central Government expenditure in 1998-99 (Revised Estimates) as compared to 1997-98 is 21.5%;

(c) To effect economy in non-Plan expenditure, a 10% cut on non-salary secretariat expenditure was imposed;

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise;

(f) After meeting obligatory and essential payments like Plan expenditure, Interest payments, Defence, Food & Fertiliser subsidy, Internal Security, Pension, Transfers to State Governments in terms of finance Commissions recommendations, etc., the growth of other items of expenditure has been generally restrained.

Call for indefinite strike by United Forum of Bank Unions

2275. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) consisting of four officers' associations and five workers' Unions has given a call for an indefinite nation wide strike from March 17 to be preceded by a two day strike on February 25 and 26 in support of their demand for a wage hike; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures being taken for an amicable settlement of their demands so that the proposed strike is averted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) On the call given by United Forum of Bank Unions, the bank employees went on two days strike on February 25th and 26th in support of their demand for wage hike. The Forum had also given a notice for indefinite nation wide strike from March 17, 1999. However, in pursuance of understanding reached on 11.3.99 between Indian Banks' Association and the United Forum of Bank Unions regarding wage settlement, the indefinite strike from March 17, 1999 has been called off.

Effect of lowering of interest rates on investors

2276. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question No. 18 and Unstarred Question No. 63 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd February, 1999 and to state:

(a) the number of customers in the National Saving Scheme and National Postal Saving Scheme during the last three years with State-wise details;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the investors in these schemes are small depositors, especially pensioners and main reason for their investing in the sense of security that these schemes evoke; and

(c) if so, whether the lowering of interest rates will affect them and expose them to the unscrupulous N.B.F.Cs and Mutual Funds whose records are dubious?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The Circle-wise number of accounts/cer-tificates issued' in respect of small savings schems during the last three years are being collected. State-wise details of number of customers are not available.

(b) and (c) No data on categories of subscribers is available. Investors repose their confidence in small savings schemes owing to Government of India guarantee, attractive returns, substantial tax benefits and easy liquidity terms. A large network of Post Offices & branches of public sector banks ensure easy access to these schemes. Therefore, investor confidence is expected to continue in Small Savings Schemes.

एक,दो और पांच रूपए के नोटों के प्रचलन को रोकना

2277. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव :** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्ष1994-1998-99 की अवधि के दौरान वर्षवार एक, दो और पांच रूपए के नोट और सिक्के कितनी मात्रा में जारी किए गए,

(ख) उक्त अवधि के दौरान वापिस लिए गए खराब नोट और नष्ट किए नोटों की संख्या कितनी है, और

(ग) एक, दो और पांच रूपए के नोटों के प्रचलन को रोकने और उनके स्थान पर केवल सिक्को को प्रचलन में लाने के लिए की जा रही कार्रवाई का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री यशवंत सिन्हा) : (क) वर्ष 1994-95 से 1998-99 की अवधि के दौरान जारी किए गए 1 रूपए, 2रूपए और5 रूपए के नोटों और सिक्कों की मात्रा निम्नलिखित है :-

(मिलियन अदद)

वर्ष	जारी किए गए सिक्कों की मात्रा			जारी किए गए नोटों की मात्रा		
	1/-रू0	2/-रू0	5/-रू0	1/-रू0	2/-रू0	5/-रू0
1994-95	584	287	305	44	100	472
1995-96	206	450	297	-	-	203
1996-97	520	285	376	-	-	-
1997-98	1078	545	305	-	-	-
1998-99	648	625	271	-	-	-
(दिसम्बर, 98 तक)						

(ख) वर्ष 1994-95 से 1998-99 तक की अवधि के दौरान वापस दिए गए और नष्ट किए गए 1रूपए, 2 रूपए और 5 रूपए के नोटों की संख्या निम्नलिखित है:-

(मिलियन अदद)

वर्ष	मूल्यवर्ग एंव मात्रा		
	1 रूपया	2 रूपया	5 रूपया
1994-95	289	823	1096
1995-96	215	578	921
1996-97	131	397	754
1997-98	88	270	561
1998-99	35	105	263
(दिसम्बर, 98 तक)			

(ग) 1 रूपए, 2रूपए और 5 रूपए के मूल्यवर्ग के फटे पुराने/ कटे-फटे को चलन से हटाने की दृष्टि से भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने छोटे मूल्यवर्ग के नोटों को बदलने के लिए अपने सभी निर्गम काय्रालयों मे विशेष काउंण्टर खोले हैं । भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने पूरे देश के मुख्य समाचार-पत्रों में इस सुविधा के बारे में अंग्रेजी और प्रान्तीय भाषा में विज्ञापन भी जारी किए है जिसमें भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के कांउटरों पर छोटे मूल्यवर्ग के नोटों को बदलने के लिए जनता का सहयोग मांगा है । उपर्युक्त सुविधा देश में सरकारी क्षेत्र के बैंक की शाखाओं में फटे-पुराने नोटों को बदलने के लिए पहले से उपलब्ध सुविधा के अतिरिक्त है ।